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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Filing Date		November 29, 2001	
		First Named Inventor		Shinichi Iwano	
		Art Unit		2874	
		Examiner Name		Not Yet Assigned	
Sheet		of	1	Attorney Docket	72499

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.†	Document Number Number-Kind Code‡	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.†	Foreign Patent Document Country Code‡-Number*-Kind Code§	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T‡
EK		P10-319273 A ✓	12/04/1998	Nippon Steel Weld Prod.	Entire doc.	A
		P 05-323149 A ✓	12/07/1993	Nippon Steel Weld Prod.	Entire doc.	A
		P 03-092803 A ✓	04/18/1991	Hitech Ltd	Entire doc.	A
		P 63-256909 A ✓	10/24/1988	Sumitomo Electric Ind. Ltd	Entire doc.	A
		P O 819960 A2 ✓	01/21/1998	Seiko Instruments Inc.	Entire doc.	Y
EK		P O 862072 A2 ✓	09/02/1999	Seiko Instruments Inc.	Entire doc.	Y

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS		
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.†	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published
EF		International Search Report for PCT/JP00/02563 issued 08/27/2000

Examiner Signature	Ellen Kim	Date Considered	2/28/05
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 † Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ‡ See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.
 § Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ¶ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. § Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.18 if possible. ¶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.